3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:50.

4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule codes for a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule codes for a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:51.

6. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) a fragment of nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, and

(b) complements of (a).

8. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the fragment has a size selected from the group consisting of at least: 8 nucleotides, 10 nucleotides, 12 nucleotides, 14 nucleotides, 16 nucleotides, 18 nucleotides, 20 nucleotides, 22 nucleotides, 24 nucleotides, 26 nucleotides, 28 nucleotides, 30 nucleotides, 50 nucleotides, 75 nucleotides, 100 nucleotides, and 200 nucleotides.

9. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the fragment encodes a peptide which is a fragment of a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 8, wherein the fragment encodes a peptide which is a fragment of a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

11. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 operably linked to a promoter.

12. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, operably linked to a promoter.

13. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, operably linked to a promoter.

14. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 11.

15. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 12.

16. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 13.

Remarks

Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6 and 8-10 have been amended herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a RIP activity selected from the group consisting of DNA binding, protein multimerization, and nucleic acid looping. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification and particularly at page 21, lines 24-27.

Claim 1 is further amended to recite stringent conditions as described in the specification. Support for this amendment can be found on page 22, lines 18-24. Additionally, the composition of SSC is known in the art, as described below and as evidenced by the attached sheets from Current Protocols in Human Genetics. (See Appendix E.)

Claims 6 and 9-10 has been amended to remove the term "unique."

Claim 6 has been further amended to remove the negative provision objected to by the Examiner.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to correct claim dependency.

The specification has been amended to recite "0.015M" rather than "0.15M" sodium citrate in the composition of hybridization buffer component SSC. This was an inadvertent typographical error. Support for this amendment can be found in any standard molecular biology textbook such as Current Protocols in Human Genetics (page A.2D.8, see Appendix E) which teaches the composition of 20x SSC to be 3 M NaCl and 0.3M sodium citrate. Accordingly, 1x SSC comprises 0.015M sodium citrate. The recitation of stringent conditions in claim 1, as now amended, includes this amendment. The documentation submitted herewith in Appendix E supports the change in the concentration of citrate in the stringent conditions recited in the specification and the claims.